

REMARKS

Applicant's claim to foreign priority in this patent application is perfected by the submission herewith of a Verification of Translation of the priority document. A consequence of this submission is that the Iwamura documents (US 2003/0029537 A1 and EP 1 277 599 A2) can no longer qualify as prior art against claims in this application. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 USC § 103(a) based on US 6374885 B1 (Uchida et al.) and the Iwamura et al. documents be withdrawn.

For reasons presented in the January 3, 2006 Reply, Applicant respectfully submits that this patent application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Verification of Translation (1 page)